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## SIDE GLANCES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Extension Service

### VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS

May 31, 1946

For your information


TO ALL VFV SUPERVISORS:

Subject: News Letter

#### THE CARTOON

The Washington Daily News published this cartoon a few weeks ago and we couldn't resist the temptation

to have it copied for you. To do so, we received the permission of the National Editorial Association which distributed Side Glances to a number of newspapers.



I've got a job for the summer--Mom says it'll build my character to work during vacation, but I'm only doing it for the money, myself!

#### ITCHING FEET

get the folders and posters too late to make use of them--and then start itching for a look at your activities out where the tall corn and the rest of the crops grow. That's the situation right now. And so I hope to be off before this letter reaches you for points midwest.

C. E. Bublitz and I have a few days of picture taking scheduled in the Twin Cities area of MINNESOTA during Memorial Day week. Around that calendar I've planned visits to KENTUCKY, IOWA, ILLINOIS, AND MICHIGAN. Later I hope to make a PENNSYLVANIA and New England trip. Tentative plans call for Roberta Clark to get to some of the Western States in late June and early July.

Our later traveling plans are flexible--so we'll be glad to hear from any of you who have something special we ought to see in your VFV programs. Miss Clark and I realize that we cannot get to as many States this year as before. But we're especially interested in visiting those of you who are expecting to use youth workers after this year.

#### THE MAY SITUATION

it looks now in May. And we get most of our information from you folks out in the field.

With the emphasis on local recruitment this year, youth look pretty important in the farm labor picture. That's the story as



Let's look around the country: NEW MEXICO--"from present indications....a large number of youth enrolled"....MISSISSIPPI--"continued need for urban youth" NEW YORK--hopes to increase legal child labor to attract badly needed farm workers, according to the New York Times....UTAH--sugar beet thinning contests already under way to attract youth....NEW HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND--prospects for more and older youth.

Take the MICHIGAN situation too. Doris Shimkus writes that "We're expecting more boys and girls to want farm work....also we feel they'll be older youth, larger, and more experienced....As to demand, I feel we'll have requests for more youth this year than last."

A report from Philadelphia is significant. Several weeks ago it appeared that demands for Philadelphia youth on PENNSYLVANIA, VERMONT, AND CONNECTICUT farms were "three times that of 1945."

Then there's COLORADO--recruiting VFV's is under way in Denver and Greeley.... NORTH DAKOTA's prospect for a larger grain acreage and a shorter time between harvest peaks will undoubtedly count many local youth in on the job....OREGON--increased orders for youth platoons....SOUTH CAROLINA--Florence County wants 100 live-in boys to begin work early in June....KANSAS--college students being recruited in 35 colleges and universities for wheat harvest.

#### IDEA DEPARTMENT

Our idea for the day comes from OREGON. Anyway we think it's a good idea--something which might have application in large youth day-haul counties. This one originated in Washington County, OREGON.

Roy Davidson, the farm labor assistant, got out a Victory Farm Volunteer News in late April and distributed it to county schools. Washington County uses a great number of day-haul boys and girls to pick the berry and bean crops. Davidson put the story into three mimeographed sheets, starting out with the story of Mother Hubbard, whose cupboards are bare, and her dog, Europe. Also included were suggestions for lunches in the fields, the county farm labor needs, and some jokes of interest to the youngsters.

VERMONT counties put out news letters during the summer, too. But they are for live-ins. Davidson expects to put out several more issues, distributing them directly to youth who register for the day-hauls.

#### ADD IDEA--DIXIE STYLE

As far as we know, W. L. Brannon's special VFV issue of The Carolina Club Boy, SOUTH CAROLINA'S 4-H Club paper, is also something new under the sun. It went out with a May date line, 8,000 copies to 4-H'ers and 14,000 copies to public schools. You'll be getting copies, too. With pictures and many news items, it tells a good story of the SOUTH CAROLINA VFV's in war and peace.

#### PUBLICITY IN BANGOR

The Bangor Daily News, way up in MAINE, apparently runs a regular feature called "The News Looks at Life in Maine." Anyway the copy John Downing sends us, dated May 4-5, features "Farm Volunteer." And it's a fine full page devoted to pictures of a photogenic VFV and a brief story of the State program.



SAFETY  
BULLETIN

BULLETIN!—WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A SAFETY LEAFLET. FROM THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL WE GET WORD THAT A VFV SAFETY LEAFLET OUGHT TO BE READY FOR DISTRIBUTION FROM CHICAGO ABOUT JUNE 1. WE HAVE ADVANCE ORDERS FROM SOME OF THE STATES. IF YOUR ORDER IS NOT IN AND YOU DO WANT VFV SAFETY BULLETINS THIS YEAR SEND YOUR ORDER TO NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL, 20 NORTH WACKER DRIVE, CHICAGO 6, ILL.

ANOTHER QUOTE FROM DR. STUDEBAKER  
interested in his comment:

Here's what Dr. John W. Studebaker, United States Commissioner of Education, told me in a recent letter. I'm sure you'll be

"I have considered that the educational outcomes of the Victory Farm Volunteers are as important as their contribution to the war effort....The experience of many States with the program should assist the public schools to set up permanent farm work programs for urban youth in the future. I agree with you that such programs will improve rural-urban relationships, as well as the youth themselves.

CAMP AGREEMENT—EMPIRE STATE STYLE

I've mentioned before that NEW YORK's youth camps this year will be set up with more rigid agreements between Extension and growers.

Among the mutual agreements are these: That the employer will apply to the county health commissioner 30 days before opening date for an operating permit for the camp....that each worker will not pay more than \$10 a week board.... that the employer will furnish transportation to church and once each week to a recreation center....that Extension will pay transportation costs to camp and the grower will pay the return fare for the worker who stays full time.

LETTER FROM DAVE STILES

Do you remember Dave Stiles? You New England folks do, of course. He was VFV supervisor in CONNECTICUT until he was drafted, almost in time to celebrate VE-Day in the Army. Dave writes to us from Oberammergau, Germany, which I've always wanted to visit. And you can't guess what he's been assigned to do. It seems he's in charge of two rural counties making a survey of farm conditions, especially concerning labor.

Dave says that the great shortages on German farms are commercial fertilizers and small tools. "In order to produce any at all they have to trade products for them, as money is valueless. The black market of course is everywhere and the farmers admit that at least 10 percent of their products go directly into black market channels. A great deal more never reach the legitimate market. Cooperatives handle practically all of the farmer's buying and selling."

Thought you'd like to hear this news from Dave. His wife, by the way, expects to join him in Germany in July.

SAYS THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR-JOURNAL

When C. E. Bublitz, MINNESOTA VFV man, was in Washington during January for our little advisory committee session, the Minneapolis Star-Journal's correspondent here interviewed him and sent back a dandy story to his paper.



The editor took the cue from his correspondent and devoted a thoughtful editorial to MINNESOTA'S plans for continuing the VFV as a regular Extension activity. The Star-Journal seems to like the idea. Commented the editor:

"For many years we have made special efforts through the 4-H Clubs and the Future Farmers of America to make better farmers of our rural youth....With the increasing interdependence of farm and city, this has been all to the good. But such a program should work both ways. The city youth has a real interest in what happens to the farm. He should know how he gets the food he finds on his table and the clothes he wears on his back."

#### THE RECORD

LOOKING OVER OUR RECORD SINCE 1943, OUR SAFETY PROGRAM AMONG VFV'S MUST HAVE BEEN GOOD. YES, THE SAFETY RECORD IS A FINE ONE. BUT DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK THAT JUST ONE ACCIDENT COULD WRECK YOUR FEELING OF CONFIDENCE ABOUT SAFETY. ONE ACCIDENT, AS SOME OF YOU HAVE SADLY DISCOVERED, CAN CAUSE ALL OF US A LOT OF TROUBLE, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE BOY OR GIRL CONCERNED. WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT WHEN IT'S TIME TO PUSH VFV INSURANCE THIS YEAR.

#### PROGRESS REPORT

Growth is the best measure of progress. As I see it, it's not how we do in comparison with John Jones, but how we move ahead in

comparison with our own past performances. That's my reaction when I note that Florence County, SOUTH CAROLINA, farmers want 100 live-ins this year, as I mentioned above. I can't help comparing it with the situation in Florence County when I was down there in 1944. Even so, those 100 requests stack up well with many another county record. What's apparently been done in Florence County also proves to me what we can accomplish when a State VFV supervisor and the county farm labor assistant put their talent and energies into a situation, no matter how much farmers balk at the first mention of city "kids". When I was in Florence County, 2 years ago, some 16 farmers had finally agreed to take VFV's, although the labor situation was tight, and most of them were grouchy about the deal.

Somewhere along the line Florence County farmers have apparently changed their minds. And the only thing that could have brought that about is a good program, well run by Extension--and good cooperation from everybody.

#### ABOUT RADIO

NEW YORK'S farm labor "informationist" Betty Burch, has this note in the April 29 Farm Labor Pains, NEW YORK labor publication:

"Are you using radio?" she asks. "Many of your local stations have regular farm programs--they're a fairly sure and painless way of keeping farmers up to date. Don't miss the opportunity to use their facilities."

#### JACK WEAVER HAS THEM PRINTED

When a NEW YORK farmer applies for a live-in farm cadet (VFV), there's a printed form for him to fill out.

Jack Weaver gave me one when I was in NEW YORK recently. The employer agrees "not to require more than 10 hours' work per day except in emergency situations"

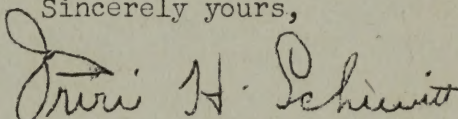


and that Sunday work, except for the usual chores, will not be required. And he agrees to make it possible for cadets to attend church on Sunday.

NEW YORK also has printed forms to be signed by the farmer, youth, and parent when the placement is made. In the agreement, the farmer understands "that I may discharge him (the boy) for unsatisfactory work or conduct," but agrees to notify the supervisor first.

As I've so often said, we like to hear from you often. Our part in helping produce food this year is a challenging one, isn't it?

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Irvin H. Schmitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'I'.

Irvin H. Schmitt, Chief  
Victory Farm Volunteers Division  
Extension Farm Labor Program

(Copy to State supervisors,  
directors, editors)

